

This brought no appreciable comment beyond a stressing of the need for very careful observation of such bird movements.

(13) Does the scientific significance of different standards in nest-sanitation really justify the number of words that have been written on it?

It is interesting that such birds as kingfishers are so unhygienic in their nesting arrangements. The whole subject was felt to be in need of further investigation.

(14) What advice would you give to the compiler of a regional handbook on whose sight records to accept, of what species?

Serve on a committee working for a number of years anonymously.

J.J.Y.

## A National Bird for Britain

Lord Hurcomb brought the evening to a very appropriate close by announcing that the result in the choice of a National Bird for Britain was overwhelmingly in favour of the robin.

### A new race of *Parus funereus* (Verreaux)

by MELVIN A. TRAYLOR

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Among the Angola birds reported by Heinrich (1958, Jour. f. Orn., 99: 322-362; 399-421) was the Dusky Tit, *Parus funereus*, from Gabela. Gabela is on the escarpment of the central plateau in Caunza Sul, with a small area of evergreen forest much of which is now planted with coffee plantations. The population of Dusky Tits found here is separated by some hundreds of miles from Gabon, where it is very rare, and by many more from southern Cameroon, the nearest locality at which it is fairly common. When compared to Cameroon and Uganda specimens, the Angola males are noticeably paler and may be called:

*Parus funereus gabela* subsp. nov.

*Type:* Adult ♂ from 15 km. south of Gabela, Cuanza Sul, Angola, collected 8th August 1954 by Gerd Heinrich; Chicago Natural History Museum. No. 224676.

*Diagnosis:* Throat and breast of males dull blackish slate, not black with a greenish gloss as in *funereus*. Averages slightly smaller in wing length than *funereus*. Females average paler and more bluish slate below. Wing length:

*gabela:* 2♂♂ 86, 86; 2♀♀ 77, 84.

*funereus:* 6♂♂ 82, 86, 89, 89, 91, 91.; 3♀♀ 80, 83, 83.

*Size of type:* Wing 86, tail 60, bill 13, tarsus 20.

*Remarks:* Besides the four adults of *gabela* whose measurements are given above, Heinrich collected two juvenal females. As noted by Chapin (1954, Bul. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., 75B:106) the juvenal plumage is much darker than that of the female, almost as dark as the males.

Heinrich found these birds frequenting the tops of the taller trees. This accords with observations of the nominate race in Cameroon and Uganda.

### Some records from the Mpika and Serenje Districts, Northern Rhodesia

by C. W. BENSON, R. BOULTON AND M. P. STUART IRWIN

Received 7th June 1960

The records which follow supplement information in Benson and White's Check List (1957). They result from collecting by M.P.S.I. in the

two districts in March and April, 1960, and by C.W.B. and R.B. in Serenje in the latter month. The Kanchibiya River was visited at 11°30'S., 31°17'E., likewise the Luombwa at 12°24'S., 30°05'E., the Mlembo at 12°33'S., 30° 20'E., and the Musola at 12°38'S., 30°15'E., Co-ordinates are given for any other localities not so specified in the Check List. Most of the specimens listed are now in the National Museum, Bulawayo. It is also worth mentioning that specimens of *Caprimulgus n. natalensis* Smith, *Mirafr africana chapini* Grant & Mackworth-Praed and *Cisticola aridula perplexa* White were collected at five miles south-east of Mukuku.

*Pernis apivorus apivorus* (Linné).

♀, 3rd April, Kondolilo Falls, Brachystegia woodland.

Stomach-contents, large mud-nest building wasps, some adults, but mostly already pupated grubs, still soft bodied, not fully chitinized, and in some cases still in cocoons.

*Alcedo atthis semitorquata* Swainson.

An occupied nesting tunnel was found on the Lubachi Stream, in the Mpika District at 11°35'S., 31°17'E., on 31st March. The tunnel was in a bank rising about 5ft. above the water-level, and itself 1ft. above the water. It apparently contained very small young, as both parents were bringing food, and showed great agitation on a close approach, but no sound was heard from the interior of the tunnel.

*Buccanodon anchetae katangae* Vincent.

2♂, 3♀, 27th/28th March, Kanchibiya River, Brachystegia woodland.

*Motacilla clara torrentium* Ticehurst.

♂, 26th March, Kondolilo Falls.

I. R. Grimwood saw a pair on the Lusiwash River, at the foot of the Muchinga Escarpment, at 13°20'S., 31°04'E., on 18th November, 1958.

*Anthus leucophrys bohndorffi* Neumann.

♂, 7th April, 10 miles south-east of Mukuku; ♂, 10th April, Luombwa River.

*Chlorocichla flavicollis flavigula* (Cabanis).

♂, 12th April, Luombwa River.

*Sylvia communis icterops* Ménériés.

♀, 31st March, 12 miles south of Kanchibiya River, Brachystegia woodland.

*Eremomela atricollis* Bocage.

3♂, ♀, 6th/7th April, Mlembo River; ♂, 12th April, Musola River.

*Cisticola chiniana fortis* Lynes.

♂, 5th April, Serenje District at 13°16'S., 30°06'E.

*Cisticola fulvicapilla angusticauda* Reichenow.

4♂, 3♀, 27th/31st March, near Kanchibiya River; 6♂, 8♀, 6th/7th April, Mlembo River; ♀, 12th April, Musola River.

Some of these specimens are juveniles, with skull-ossification not started. They differ from adults in having the underside tinged yellowish, the flanks fawn rather than greyish, while the rufous of the crown is not sharply defined from the mantle and back, which have a strong rusty tinge, extending to the outer webs of the wing-coverts. Measurements in mm. as follows:—

		Wing	Tail
Adults	6♂	47-49	49-53
	8♀	44-47	44-51
Juveniles	4♂	44-47	46-51
	4♀	43-44	46-47

*Anthoscopus caroli* subsp.

2♂, 2♀, 6th/7th April, Mlembo River; ♂, 9th April, Musola River.

Intermediate between *A. c. caroli* (Sharpe) and *A. c. rhodesiae* Sclater.

*Nectarinia verticalis viridisplendens* (Reichenow).

♂, ♀, 12th April, confluence of Kasanka and Musola Rivers, 12°35'S., 30°15'E.; ♀, 4th April, near Serenje District Headquarters; ♀, 14th April, Lusiwashi River at 13°12'S., 31°02'E.

The Musola specimens were together, and accompanied by a fledged young bird still under parental care and being fed. The male had testes measuring 4 x 3, 5 x 4 mm. and therefore apparently shortly to breed again.

*Nectarinia olivacea lowei* (Vincent).

♂, 10th April, Luombwa River, both testes 5 x 4 mm.

*Phormoplectes angolensis* (Bocage).

♂, ♀, 2nd/3rd April, Kondolilo Falls, from mixed bird parties in *Brachystegia* woodland.

*Lagonosticta rubricata haematocephala* Neumann.

♂, 6th April, Mlembo River; ♂, ♀, 12th April, Musola River.

The Musola specimens were collected with the same shot, and in neither had skull-ossification started. They resemble adults in the colour of the tail, upper and under tail-coverts, lower abdomen and thighs. But elsewhere on the underside they are yellowish brown, with only a little red on the chin and throat. The top of the head is greyish brown, rather than greyish vinous, and the brown of the mantle and back is warmer, more tawny than in adults. A juvenile collected by W. F. H. Ansell at Kabompo on 10th March is very similar, but probably even younger, since red is altogether lacking on the underside. The Mlembo specimen is also juvenile, but apparently rather older than the two from the Musola, red on the underside being rather more developed.

*Lagonosticta rufopicta nitidula* Hartlaub.

♀, 30th March, Luitikila River, near Mpika.

*Estrilda melanotis kilimensis* (Sharp).

♀, 14th April, Musense, top of Muchinga Escarpment at 13°15'S., 30°05'E., oocytes mostly of diameter 1 mm.

P.S. — More recently, at Musense, the last mentioned locality above, C.W.B. has collected *Cossypha bocagei chapini* Benson, *Phylloscopus laurae eustacei* (Benson) (including a female in almost full breeding condition on 10th October) and *Heliolais erythroptera rhodoptera* (Shelley).